

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~In a first embodiment, the present invention provides computer implemented~~ Computer-implemented methods for allocating resources to items are provided. ~~Methods according to the present invention first determine one~~ One or more assignment scores for each item/resource pair ~~are determined~~ by applying one or more application-specific strategies to each item/resource pair using game theory. A cost matrix is created by first summing the assignment scores for each item/resource pair and then multiplying each assignment score sum by an assignment cost associated with assignment a particular resource to a particular item. Finally, an assignment solution is found by applying ~~the~~ a Hungarian method to the cost matrix. ~~In a second embodiment, the present invention provides a computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a methods of the present invention.~~

~~The present invention can be advantageously utilized to allocate or schedule a wide variety of processes or outputs competing for a resource. The present invention finds utility in a wide variety of applications. For example, the present invention can be advantageously utilized for scheduling of processes in chemical refineries and other manufacturing operations; scheduling of airline crews, supply chain management, and work flow management, distributed power management system, and decision making intelligent machines for self scheduling.~~